THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1863.

#### THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS.

We have already placed before our readers the circular letter addressed by the Emperor of the Franch to all the sovereigns and heads of independeat States in Europe, inviting them to participate in a Congress of Nations for the purpose of digesting some plan that shall compose existing dissensions on the Continent.

This circular has been addressed to the Governments of England, Russia, Austria, Prussia, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Bavaria, Wurtemburg, Hanover, Saxony, the Germanic Confederation, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Turkey, Belgium, Holland, Greece, and the Papal States, being twenty in all. It will thus be seen that the Germanic States, in their several and collective capacities, will count for seven votes (or one-third of the whole number) in all decisions which may be reached by the Congress, should it be heid.

M. F. Gaillardet, the intelligent Paris correspeadento. the New York Courrier des Etats-Unis, in his last letter to that journal, expresses the opinion that if England, Austria, and Russia shall each refuse to accept the Emperor's invitation, his projected conterence will fall to the ground. But if England and Austria shall abstain, while Russia and Prussia give in their adhesion to the plan. it is thought that they would form, with Italy, Spain, Portugal, Saxony, Sweden, Denmark, and Holland, and other minor Powers, a tribunal sufficiently strong in numbers and weight to meet the requirements of the occasion; and that France would agree to abide by its awards.

Whether the proposed Congress shall ever be held or not, it is admitted on all hands that its mere suggestion marks an epoch in the history of Europe. Other French monarchs-a Henry IV, a Louis XIV, and a Napoleon I .- have in like manner essayed a remodelling of the map of Europe, but always by means of war as the primary agency. As M. Gaillardet says, Napoleon III. is the first who has sought to reach the same ends by the resorts of peace. Hitherto such Congresses in Europe have followed wars and not preceded them. And their decree has been "the law of the strongest imposed on the vanquished, who endured but did not accept it." By convoking a Congress before war, the present Emperor of the French has departed from the traditions of the past, and sought to substitute reason for force. peace accepted instead of peace imposed. "The ides is grand," says M. Gaillardet, but "I fear it is more philosophical than practical, and that it will remain nothing more than a dream, in spite of present indications, which represent almost all the Sovereigns as disposed to accept, in principle, the proposition of the Emperor."

It will be remembered that the Emperor proposes by this Congress to reconcile "the rights of Sovereigns with the legitimate aspirations of the people." What are these "aspirations" as to-day known to the world? The same writer briefly recapitulates them as follows: "Poland aspires to recover her indpendence: Hungary

aspires to recover her self-government; Venice aspires to unite with the rest of Italy; Rome aspires to rid herself of the temporal power of the Pope, and France aspires to enter again within her natural boundary of the Rhine To sanction the status quo would be to aggravate it, and, however conciliatory he may be, I do not believe that Napoleon III. will solemnly renounce, in the name of France, her aspirations in the direction of the Rhine. Instead of a crowning this would be an abdication, and the triumph would be turned to a defeat. Unless he expects to astonish Europe, and especially France, the first opening be shall make on this subject will extort cries from Prussia and all Germany. Russia and Austria will exclaim in like manner, so far as they are concerned, unless more than sufficient compensations be offered them, and these cannot be found except at the expense of the Turk'sh Empire, which will be reduced to one fourth its size or to nothing. But England is no more willing to see Turkey touched than Prussic, and is only moderately disposed, for her part, to rest re Gibratar to Spain and Malta to Italy. "

"A European re-adjustment cannot be effected sive at the expense of certain Powers, and force alone can compass this end. It is one of those Cæsarean operations which are performed by iron and not by words. Such, at least, is my opinion. Europe will be re-adjusted by war or not at all."

### THE UNION ADVANCE IN TEXAS.

The correspondent of the Boston Journal, writing from Aransas Pass on the 18th ultimo, gives some particulars of the expedition to Corpus Christi.

Gen. Banks left Point Isabel on the 16th, with a fleet of n'ne transports, secorted by the gunboat Montgomery, and arrived on the 17th off Corpus Christi Pass. Finding the water on the bar too shallow for the vessels to cross, the troops were landed on Mustang Island. The next morning the numberst opened upon the battery erected to defend the pass, while a portion of the troops succeeded in getting in the rear of the enemy, who then displayed a flag of truce and surrendered at discretion. Their battery consisted of three twenty-four pounders and an eight-inch sea howitzer. The force of the garrison consisted of one company of regular artitlery and two companies of drafted Texan militie, in all about one hundred and fifty men.

The writer adds that the expedition of Gen. Banks has thus far been perfectly brodless. Not a man has been killed or wounded; the only loss has been five men drowned, and this acciden . was caused by a positive dis

obedience of orders.

The following efficial despatches from Gen. Banks and his Chief of Staff have been received:

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, NOV. 9, 1863. His Excellency A LINCOLN, President Stu: I am in occupation of Brazos Island, Fort Isabel and Brownsville. My most sanguine expectations are more than realized. Three revolutions have occurred in Matamores affecting the Government of Tamaulipas. The first was adverse to the interests of Mexico and the United States. Every thing is now as favorable as could be de sired.

N. P. BANKS. Major General Commanding.

NEW ORLEANS, (LA.) NOVEMBER 20, 1863. Major Gen. H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief: I have just received intelligence that Corpus Christi. Texas, is in possession of our forces.

C. P. STONE,

Brig. Gen. and Chief of Staff.

NEW ORLEANS, (LA.) NOVEMBER 20, 1863. Major Gen. H. W. HALL, CK, General in Chief. GENERAL: Aransas, Texas, was taken by our force on the 17th instant. One hundred prisoners and three guns captured. C. P. STONE. guns captured. Brig. Gen. and Chief of Staff.

MARYLAND CONGRESSMEN.

Governor Bradford, of Maryland, has issued his proclamation declaring that John A. J. Creswell, Edwin H. Webster, Henry Winter Davis, Francis Thomas, and Benlamin G. Harris have been duly elected to represent the State in the next Congress, and that Elishs J. Hall and Levin E. Straughn have been chosen Commissioners of Public Works.

The Army of the Potomac has made an extensive re connoissance since the last issue of our weekly paper, of which the subjoined extracts from letters of army corre. spondents record the incidents up to Sunday morning last. Subsequently to that time there was no fighting of consequence, and, the object of the movement being, it may be presumed, been accomplished, the army retraced its steps and yesterday recrossed the Rapid Ann to its former

All day on Wednesday the weather was lowering and th prospects for an advance appeared very slim. At night the clouds scattered and the moon and stars showed brightly. The air grew cold, and last night instructions came to be ready to move on the morrow at seven o'clock. All was bustle and preparation.

Thursday morning dawned bright and clear and cold The advance moved early and the cavalry soon crossed the Rapid Ann, but the rebels had left their works and re tired, whither it now became the duty of the cavalry to ascertain. The rebel pickets were withdrawn a little fter midnight on Wednesday night.

The programme, as carried out, was for the Second Corps, Gen. Warren, to cross at Germania Ford and take the road to Orange Court-House via Robertson's Tavern The Third Corps, Gen. French, was to cross at Jacob' Mills Ford and take position at night on the right of the Second Corps. The Fifth Corps, Gen. Sykes, was to cross at Culpeper Ford, move on toward the Fredericksburg Plankroad, and form a junction with the Second Corps of its right at the forks of the road at Robertson's Tavern The Sixth Corps, Gen. Sedgwick, to follow the Third Corps at Jacob's Mills Ford, and the First Corps, Gen Newton, with the reserve artillery and wagon trains, to follow the Fifth Corps across Culpeper Ford, the wagors to be parked at Richardsville, about fifteen miles south

rom Rappahannock Station.

This programme was fully carried out, the crossings being made without opposition. The water was about waist-high, and the men forded the river. While on the march the columns were halted, and the telegrams announcing the victory at Chattanooga were read to the men. The news was received with the wildest enthusiasm. The air was darkened with caps thrown up by officers and men and resonant with the cheers of the mighty host. This announcement only increased the spirits of the men, and their desires to meet the enemy were loudly expressed but, alas! no enemy could be found.

CONTINUED ADVANCE ON FRIDAY. At eight o'clock on Friday morning Gen. Meade and staff left the north side of the river to establish his nex headquarters near Robertson's Tavern, on the macada mized road leading to Orange Court-House, fifteen mile

Gen. Warren's corps reached Robertson's Tavern at 1 o'clock A. M., meeting the enemy's skirmishers sever miles east of that place, and driving them forward half mile beyond the Tavern, where our troops were formed i ine of battle, and brisk skirmishing commenced. A vista of road for two mil-s toward Orange Court-House opener to view, in which groups of rebels were gathered watching our movements. On the right and left their skirmishers were concealed, and occasionally sent a shot into our line until the firing became quits sharp on both sides Lieu Col, Hesser, of the 72d Pennsylvania, formerly Baxter Zouaves, was killed soon after the formation of our skir mish line. His regiment immediately charged and re

covered his body.

During the skirmishing in the centre, at Robertson favern, heavy cannonading was heard on the right and left—the Fifth Corps being on the left in the vicinity of Hope Church, and the Third, supported by the Sixth, or he right. Gregg's cavairy division on the left had come p with the enemy's skirmishers several miles to the east of Hope Church, and drove them handsomely to that point where a portion of Hill's Corps was stationed. Here three egiments of Gregg's division dismounted and gallantly held the enemy in check until the arrival of the Fifth Corps, when our troops, after a sharp skirmish, drove the enemy from his line and succeeded in forming a junction with our centre at Robertson's Tavern on the night of Friday, November 27th. Our loss on the left has not been fully ascertained up to this time, (Saturday morning

28th.) but it is supposed to be light.
On the right, Gen. French, supported by Gen. Russell's old brigade of the Sixth Corps, met the enemy four miles old brigade of the Sixth Corps, met use the tast, and a sharp to the right of the Orange Cou t house road, and a sharp engagement ensued which lasted till dark, when our troops, the greatly superior numbers, gradually tell overpowered by greatly superior numbers, gradually tell back a short distance. The troops opposed to the Third Corps were those of Ewell, now of Early, whose strength is estimated at 21,000. Our loss in the Third Corps is estimated at 21,000 to 900 in killed and wounded. Gen. Custer, commanding the cavalry division of Kil patrick, cross-d the river yesterday, at Raccoon and Mor ton's Ford, and had several unimportant skirmiches with

the enemy. No reports have yet been received at Gen.
Pleasonton's headquarters.
Some of Stuart's men made a dash on the rear of the
Fifth Corps trains, destroying about twenty of our wagons

FIGHT OF THE THIRD CORPS ON FRIDAY. Rumors were rife on Friday night that Gen. French ith disaster; that he had been driven back with the loss of one thousand men killed and wounded; ha ost several hundred prisoners, and finally that he was cut off by the enemy and was unable to form a junction a Locust Grove, as he had received orders to do, all o

which, happily, proved materially incorrect.

In obedience to orders, the Third Corps followed by the Sixth Corps, on the afternoon of Thursday, the 26th, crosses the Rapid-Ann at Jacobs' Mill, with no opposition excep shot or two from a few rebel videttes stationed at th ford. On reaching the south side of the river, these corppursued the road leading to Morton's ford, a few mile above, when they took a road to the left in order to strik he continuation of the road from Culpeper to Kobertson'

On Thursday night they rested near Jones's House, and posterday moroing continued their march to effect a junc-tion with Gen. Warren's corps. Gen Prince's division of he 3d was in the advance, and as the head of the column reached a small clearing it was greeted with a volley from line of rebel skirmishers.

The first brigade of the second division was thrown for ward into line, with the First Massachusetts deployed as skirmishers, supported by the first and third divisions of the corps. The First Massachusetts advanced through a dense thicket, fighting and pushing the rebels back a mile and a half to the vicinity of Mile Run, when the eneny, strengthening his line, gradually forced back our line. Skirmishing continued until half-past three P. M., wher the enemy, with shouts and yells, charged our first line. consisting of Prince's division, the right of which first fell back in some confusion, but soon rallied, and, with the aid of one section of Randolph's First Rhode Island Bat-tery and Battery K of the Fourth United States, which poured volleys of grape and canister into the advancing columns of the enemy, consisting of Johnson's and a part of Rhodes's divisions of Ewell's corps, twice in succession gallantly repulsed the enemy, who were in each in-stance driven back in a perfect rout.

The fight ceased at dark. The Third bivouscked on the fiel! at the junction of the two roads above mentioned, six mile: from Locust Grove. Our loss in killed and wounded probably amounts to not less than 350.

With such haste did the rebels retreat that they left behind all of their dead, the ground being literally covered with them. Our proportion of killed in the fight was very small, and an inspection of the battle-field leads to the con-clusion that their casualties far exceeded ours. But one brigade of the Sixth Corps was engaged, that of Gen Russell, famous for the brilliant charge at Rappahannock

Station On learning trustworthy details of this engagement of the Third Corps, the whole aspect of the affair, instead o being disastrous, exhibits a success on our part in repuls ng twice in succession the attacks of the enemy, with a oss to them of at least seven or eight hundred in killed and wounded. About one hundred prisoners were taken by Gen. French's corps.

THE FIGHT ON SATURDAY. Gen. Meade advanced his headquarters early this (S turday) morning to Robertson's Tavern, the enemy having allen back some two miles. About noon, it having become apparent that the enemy had retired to the ridge, just above little stream known as Mine Run, our hesdquarters were again moved up some two miles further, to the southeast ern slope of the high ridge occupied as our advance artil

y position.

The enemy's immediate rest base or centre is at the point where the pike which runs forth from Culp-per to the Virginia Central railroad crosses the main pike from Frange Court-House to Fredericksburg, the locality being called Verdierville. The whole section of country here shou's goes under the general name of the Wilderness, but to-day's fighting may more critically be designated as baying occurred at Mine Run.

Yesterday (Friday) our extreme right extended north to the Enpid-Ann and our left southerly near or quite to the Gordonsville and Fredericksburg pike, but it became apparent very early this morning that the enemy was resort ng to its old tactics of hurling his entire strength upon our

At the outset A. P. Hill was far up to our right, and Ewell's Corps swung from our front around to Chancel-lorsville, with his cavalry pickets close into Fredericastry g. But yesterday afternoon, while the bottest of our skir-mi-hing was going on, it was discovered that Hill was moving his corps rapidly down in the rear of Ewell's men, while Ewell's lines were as rapidly be ng drawn in to our

The merning opened with a rainstorm, but nevertheless

MOVEMENT OF THE POTOMAC ARMY. | Mills, and was engaged yesterday, six miles from Locust Grove, on the road leading to Culpeper, deployed to the left of our line; the Sixth remained on the right, the First on the left of the Sixth; the Second retained its position, while the Fifth deployed from its first station on the left

Brisk skirmishing commenced as our line reached a point a mile and a half to the west of Locust Point Grove. Our forces pushed steadily onward, however, driving the enemy's skirmishers, and hastening their retreat by an occasional shell from our batteries, to which the guns of the enemy did not reply.

The rain continued to fall at intervals, but still the troops pressed forward and the skirmishing still went on as before, the rebel line gradually falling back until it had reached the western bank of Mine Run, two and a hall ales from the tavern, and a short distance from Old Verdierville. Here evidence of the intention of the enemy to dispute the passage of the run was had. Earthworks and abatis were visible on the clearing beyond, and Gen. Meade accordingly disposed his forces along densely-wooded crest of hills east of the run.

Owing to the difficulty of moving artillery and even infantry through the woods on either side of the road, some time elapsed before the formation of our line. Night soon came, and beyond the firing of the pickets and an occasions shell thrown from our lines, nothing of importance has

The rebel line of earthworks in our front abandoned by then last night were of hasty construction, yet owing to the pecu iar topography of the line were quite formidable barriers to the advance of our skirmi-hing.

As an evidence of the indifference of the enemy amount

ing to downrig t brutality, it may be stated that they left their dead unburied in full view, when they must have had abundant opportunity to have buried them had they so desired. Your correspondent saw the blackened corpse of one of their sharpshooters lying half immersed in the mud just by the roadside where they travelled. A still more inexcusable barbar sm was enacted on yesterday's battle ground in front of the Third Corps. There not only their dead were unburied, but their wounded were buried by our men this morning in the water and mud where they had lain all night, willfully and unnecessarily abandoned by those who led the poor wretches into battle

#### THE POSITION ON SUNDAY.

This (Sunday) morning breaks with cloudy sky and cold aw, east wind. Our forces are again changing position to meet the wiles of our adversary. Our engineers went out under cover of the darkness last night and construct ed bridges over Mill Run brook, and our artillery protects them now. The enemy has also constructed a consider able line of earthworks, and have seven heavy guns in po The enemy has also constructed a consider-

The Fifth Corps, which was the reserve of yesterday, has moved out to the front and taken the place of the Se cond, while Gen. Warren has swung around to the left to execute one of those important mevements where his well-known sagacity, dash, and daring will be put to one of the severest tests.

Owing to the marshy ravine and Mine Run stream at the base of the long ridge occupied by the enemy their po-sition is one of unusual strength, and, as is their wont, they have improved every moment in throwing up earth works along the entire crest.

Considerable picket firing has been kept up on both sides this morning, and more or less random shooting through the night, but the artillery has thus far remained The enemy has husbanded his artillery ammunition

throughout, scarcely deigning to reply to any one of our many compliments of the kind thus far. It is now noon, and the present expectation is that the grand battle will open about 3 o'clock this afternoon.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE COUNTRY. No one unacquainted with this section of the country can conceive of the difficulties this army has to surmount With the exception of here and there an opening, the whole face of the country is thickly covered with oak and pine, and so compactly that for miles at some points it is next to impossible to march through it on foot. Through this deese forest there are blind roads just wide enough for one wagen to squeese through and numberless made paths. No guide can pass through these woods and not get lost without the aid of a compass. As de from one plank road, the Orange and Fredericksburg plank road, and the Orange and Fredericksburg Pike which intersect at Verdierville, and one or two country roads, there is n other means of traversing the country, so that the reader can imagine some of the difficulties this army has had to can imagine some of the difficulties this army has had to encounter during the last three days; and these woods, when the army came here, were filled with regular and irregular cavaly between the marching columns; thus some idea may be formed of the difficulty of keeping up commu-nication between different parts of the army.

#### THE NORTH CAROLINA ELECTION.

The Raleigh (N. C.) Standard claims that eight out of en of the members of the rebel Congress elect from that State are conservative, in favor of peace and the submission and return of the State to the Union. Those of them. three in number, who aanounced themselves in favor of peace on any terms, and who were most severe in their condemnation of the rebel administration, are stated to have received the largest majorities. The conservative candidates also received a unjority of the soldiers' vote. The names of the members elect are given in the Richand Enquirer of the 23d instant as follows:

First District-Hon. W. H. N. Smith, re-elected Second District-Hon. R. R. Bridgers, receieted Third District-Dr. J. T Leach, new member ourth District-Lieut Thomas C. Fuller, new member Fifth District-Capt Josiah furner, new member. Sixth District-Hon. J. A Gilmer, new member Seventh District-S. H. Christian, new member. Eighth District-Dr. J G Ramsay, new member Vinth District-B. S. Gaither, re-elected. Tenth District-Gen. G. W. Logan, new member.

THE TOTAL VOTE OF NEW YORK. Nearly six hundred thousand votes were polled in the State of New York at the late election, being only three thousand less than last year. The vote in the several districts was larger than for two years past, while in the cities there was a decrease. The vote given for Secretary of State is as follows :

ror	Mr. Depew, Republican				314.473	
For	Mr. St. John, Dem crat	-			284,937	
	Republican majority .				29,536	
	Total vote of the State				599,379	
The	total vote less than last	yea	r -		3,167	
The	D mocratic loss since la	st y	евг		21,712	
Rep	ublican gaiu				18 545	

# THE DEMOCRATIC VOTE OF OHIO.

Those who think that the late vote in Ohio indicates any diminution of strength of the Democratic organization will be somewhat surprised to peruse the following table of votes given for Democratic Governors in Ohio for the last

years:		
Governor Medill		133.00
Rufus P. Ranney		171.00
Hugh J Jewett		150 00
C. L Vallandigha	m 1863	187,00
	Governor Medill Governor Medill Henry B. Payne Rufus P. Ranney Hugh J. Jewett	Governor Medill   1853   Governor Medill   1855   Henry B Payne   1857   Rufus P Ranney   1859   Hugh J Jewett   1861   C. L Vallandigham   1863

### EXILE OF A MILITARY OFFICER

Washington Correspondence of the New York Times. The army and the country at large will be astonished to hear of the fate, shot out of the War Department like s bolt out of a cloud, upon Major N. H. McLean, the nephew of the late Justice McLean, of the United States Supreme Court. He is known every where as the Chief of Gen. Burnside's Staff in Cincinnati, and as that Gene rai's counsellor and indispensable right-hand man He was the Assistant Adjutant General of the Department of the Ohio. In the Peninsula campaign he was Chief of Gen. McClellan's Staff in reality. He is as thoroughly loyal as any man in America. Superabundant proof of this can be brought. Before the war he declined an important and lucrative position tendered him by the State of Virginia. expressly for the reason that the culminating slavery excitement threatened to embroil that State with the Federa Government, and that he never would be arrayed against his country, or get into a position where he would seem to Now, it was the misfortune of this accomplished officer and undoubted patriot to be selected by one Edgar Conklin, of Cincinnati, as the object of an intensely nervous omerousuess in conditional display of zeal lie good, and the opportunity for a personal display of zeal description. He actually followed of the most sensational description. He actually Major McLean in a newspaper as an official " not the roughly loyal," basing the impudent and outrageous charge upon the alleged fact that the Major did not vote for the Union candidates at the recent Obio election! The Major answered this strange attack by showing that he was not citizen of Ohio, and therefore had no right to vote in that State. Unabashed by this reply, which should have been stunning. Conklin assailed Mejor McLean again in the newspaper, and, incorrigibly fanatical in his fancy that the officer was disloyal, devoted days to obtaining signatures to a petition addressed to Secretary Stanton, setting forth that McLean was notoriously "secesh" in his sympathies, and demanding his removal from office. And with his tremendous industry he got a great n any signatures to this petition-some of them of gentlemen front. This, of course, required a concentration of our forces, and to-day the long triangular line of yesterday is closing in on either side of the main pike.

knew better than to sign it. The document was forward ed to the War Department secretly. Immediately on its receipt Secretary Stanton sent an order to Cincinnati relieving Major McLean, and directing him to report in perthis whole army was on the advance at an early hour. The son and without delay to some volunteer Brigadier Gene Third Corps, which crossed the Rapid-Ann at Jacob's rai at Fort Vancouver, Washington Territory!

#### LATER FROM EUROPE

The steamer Scotia has passed Cape Race with Liverpool dates of the 22d ultimo

The British Parliament stands prorogued to the 13th of January

The answer of the English Government to the proposed Congress of Napoleon has been delivered. It does not announce an unqualified acceptance, but seeks for information as to the precise points proposed for discussion. A further communication between the two Governments

relative to this subject may be expected. The Papal Government has given its assent to the proposed Congress, and the reply of Prussia was expected on the 21st. It is believed that a majority of the replies will seek for information as to the programme of the proposed convention. It is vaguely rumored that Napoleon III. has

invited the King of Belgium to draw up the programme. The Paris correspondent of the London Times asserts as his belief that the prospect of a meeting of the proposed Congress of Powers is losing ground daily. The Times

continues to show in its editorials the abortiveness of the The English journals are generally quiet with regard to American affairs. The London Times is of the opinion that America has rapidly settled into a normal state of

war, and that an early peace seems to be hopeless. The arguments in the Alexandra case are still progressing. The Astorney General, on the 20th, concluded his argument in favor of a new trial, with a warm eulogium upon the decisions in the American courts on cases of this character, deeming them honorable to the jurisprudence of this country. The Solicitor General commenced his argument for the Crown on the 21st.

Successful experiments have been made at Shoeburyness with the great Armstrong gun, shot and shell weighing 555 pounds having been thrown.

It is reported in Paris that the Spanish Government supports the caudidature of Maximilian to the Mexican

A bill has been submitted to the French Council for supementary credits of ninety-one millions of france to meet the expenses of the Mexican campaign.

The Moniteur and other French journals are treating, in accordance with official instructions, the affairs of Poland n milder tones, and the Montteur now only publishes the Russian version of events.

The decree of amnesty issued by the Italian Government is both liberal and comprehensive in its terms. The Upper House of the Prussian Parliament has voted

an address to the King by a vote of 62 to 80. The citizens of Holstein-Schleswig had held a meeting near Hamburg, and voted an address to Prince Augustenburg, inviting him to place himself at the head of the

A great fire had occurred at Portugal destroying the Municipal Chambers and numerous other buildings. Several lives were lost.

Sweden is making naval preparations of a warlike char-The advices from Japan are unfavorable. Satsuma and

other provinces are preparing for war. COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

Liverpool Cotton Market -The circulars report the ales of the week 29 000 bales, market dull, and declined ld , and, for some descriptions, 14d. The sales to specuntors were 12,000 bales, and to exporters 5 000 bales. The sales on the day of departure (Friday) amounted to 4 000 bales. The following are the authorized quotations for midding: New Orleans, 271; Mobile, 274; Uplands, 27. The stock of cotton in market is 256,000 bales.

Liverpool Breadstuffs Market — Liverpool Breadstuffs M

market is firm. Richard, Spence & Co., and Wakefield, Na h & Co. report flour steady. Wheat firm at 8s. 4d. s 8s. 6d. for winter red. The market closing firm and unchanged. Mixed corn firm and unchanged; sales at 28s.

MILITARY ORDERS RESPECTING TRADE, &C

Letters from Fortress Monroe furnish copies of the following orders, respecting trade in the military department of Virginia and North Carolina, which have just been promulgated by Gen. Butler: HEADQUARTERS EIGHTEENTH ARMY CORPS

Department of Virginia and North Carolina,
Fortress Monroe, (Va.) November 26, 1863.
Hereafter no permits for trade within this Department
will be valid, unless the same shall have been approved
at these headquarters, for the District of Virginia, or by
the Commanding Officer of the District of North Carolina,

for said last-named District By command of Major Gen. BUTLER. R. S. DAVIS, Major and Ase't Adj't Gen.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTEENTH ARMY CORPS. Department of Virginia and North Carolina, Fortress Monroe (Va ) November 26, 1863 Already large expenses are thrown upon the military within this D partment by the numerous applications fo requests for permits for imports and exports, and for passports and other permits, for the payment of which no ap propriate m-ans have been provided; and whereas there

s no good reason existing why such expenses should no ne by the persons and property benefitted thereby, it is ordered-That all persons hereafter applying for a request for a permit to import into or export from this Department shall pay at the rate of one per centum upon the value of

That for every passport issued there shall be paid the That for every permit granted to any vessel to enter o

trade in this department there shall be paid the sum of three dollars. That all the foregoing fees are to be paid to and re-ceived by the Provost Marshals, to constitute a Provost Fund, to meet expenses

By command of Major Gen. BUTLER. R. S. DAVIS, Major and Ass't Adj't Gen Another order of the same date directs the Commissary of Subsistence and the Quartermaster to supply subsis tence and fuel to the teachers employed in that department instructing the negroes.

### THE ESCAPE OF GEN. JOHN MORGAN.

A despatch from Cincinnati relates as follows the circumstances of the escape of Gen. Mergan and six of his companions from the Ohio penitentiary. Morgan has safely reached Toronto, in Canada. The other fugitives have not been heard from:

Col. Dick Morgan (a brother of Gen. John Morgan) and six captains were confined in the lower range of cells, and with knives dug through the floor of the cell, which was composed of cement and nine inches of brick. Under neath the cell was an air chamber, running the whole length of the building. This was known to them. When once in the chamber they dug through the earth to the out-ide wall. Gen. Morgan occupied the cell over Col. Morgan's. On

Friday night, as the prisoners were locked up for the night, Gen. Morgan was allowed to exchange cells with Dick, who, every thing being prepared, permitted his bro Some time during the night the prisoners crawled through the hole they had dug under the wall, and which they had

care ully concealed. Taking ropes with them, they escaped rom prison immediately between the main building and the female department. When once in the yard the escape was comparatively mey. They went to the southwest corner of the outer wall, near the big gate, threw their rope over the top, where it secured itself on one of the spikes, and by the aid of a timber near at hand they clambered to the top and

There are no guards on the outer walls after certain hours. The prisoners were dressed in citizens clothes, not Capt. Hines, who is a mason and bricklayer, had charge work which resulted in the escape of the prisoners. A note was left for the warden, of which the following is

Castle Merion, Cell Number 20,
November 27th, 1863.
To Captain Merion, Warden of the Penitentiary:
Commencement, November 4th, 1863. Conclusion, November 20th, 1863. Number of hours of labor per day, three. ds two snall knives.

Translation—Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.
By order of my six Honorable Confederates
T. Henry Hines,
Captain Confederate States Army. SUPPLIES FOR THE UNION PRISONERS.

La l'atience est amere mais son fruit est doux.

The following despatch has been received at the War Department: FORTRESS MONROE, (VA.) DEC. 2, 1863. Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War :

Government supplies for our prisoners are received and forwarded by the r bel agent. Supplies furnished by Srate agency are also received and forwarded; also indivisual supplies I send two boats laden with provisions

S. A. MEREDITH, Brig. Gen. Com'r of Exchange. FROM GEN. BURNSIDE'S ARMY.

REPORTED DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY. CHATTANOOGA, DEC. 1 .- A despatch from Gen. Burnside, dated November 25, states that the enemy on the 25th moved up three brigades, and attacked his brigade in a strong position on the south of the river, three miles from Knoxville. A hard fight ensued. The enemy was repulsed with a loss of one hundred and fifty killed. The position was strengthened, and though the enemy moved down a large force with the intention of renewing the attack, Burnside believed it could be held. He has been able, by using the reads left open, to keep a supply of pro-

CUMBERLAND PASS, Nov. 30, 11.50 P. M .- Col. Byrd repulsed Wheeler's attack at Kingston on Wednesday last. Wheeler then retired toward Knoxville.

TAZEWELL, (TENN.) DEC. 1, 6 P. M .- The report of couts sent out from the advance cavalry outposts indicate that Gen. Longstreet has commenced to retreat from his position around Knoxville. A large force of cavalry is now advancing on Maynardsville, which I think is the flanking column of the main body of Longstreet's or Jones's-the main body probably moving off on the Rutledge road.

TAZEWELL, (TENN.) DEC. 1-830 P. M.-Reports fr. m the outposts this evening concur and establish the probability that Longstreet is retreating from Knoxville towards Virginia.

CINCINNATI, DEC. 1 .- Mejor Gen. Foster arrived at Cumberland Gap yesterday en route to Knoxville. There s nothing later here this morning from Gen. Burnside. A despatch from Chattanooga says that sufficient reinorcements, under Major Gen. Gordon Granger, have been sent to Gen. Burnside to ensure his success. Bragg's

nain force is reported beyond Dalton. Rebel stragglers were coming into the Union lines.

CINCINNATI, DEC. 1 .- The Commercial's Cumberland Gap correspondent telegraphs to-night that all available force has been sent from there to intercept Longstreet's retreat into Virginia. He says a courier from Knoxville orings intelligence of the enemy's attempt to cross the river on Sunday, bringing on a general engagement, and resulting in the defeat of the enemy and the capture of Gen. Wheeler's division of five thousand rebels.

### OPERATIONS BEFORE KNOXVILLE.

KNOXVILLE, NOVEMBER 22, 1863.

Thurs lay morning revealed a line of rifl : pits which the enemy had thrown up during the night. A house near our works was occupied by their sharpshooters to the annoyance of our men, until our batteries shelled them out. During the day the rebels opened with a battery beyond the railroad depot and threw a few shells. It was silenced by

On Friday a desultory fire was kept up between the skirmishers Toward dusk the enemy opened with a new battery of rix pieces and again threw a few shells. On the right a brilliant and successful sortie was made to burn a house on the Loudon road, which interfered with our range. The rebels were driven from their rifle pits and the house burnt, when our men came back shelling them as they

On Saturday a min storm set in, lasting nearly all day The operations of the day were confined to skirmishing.
To day skirmishing has been constant along the who ine. A few shots have been exchanged between the bat-The enemy have invested the city with batteries. The rifle pits are quite close to our works, and sharp-shooters occasionally pick off a man.

#### THE STATUE ON THE CAPITOL DOME.

Pursuant to public notice the fifth and crowning section of the colossal Statue of the Goddess of Freedom was raised to its lofty position on the Dome of the Capitol at twelve o'clock yesterday. A large number of persons had assembled in the park east of the Capitol, and gave expression to patriotic exultations when the flag of the nation was heisted to the apex of the dome-a signal that the "crowning" had been successfully completed. And at this signal a salute of thirty-five guns was immediately given from the grounds adjacent to the Capitol in honor of the States in the Union, which was followed by salves of artillery from the different forts which surround the city.

We copy the following description of the Statue, and of its position on the Dome, from the Union of last evening: This statue is nineteen feet six inches high, and weigh nearly fiteen thousand pounds. It is composed entir of bronze, and constructed in five sections, the weight of the heaviest of which is 4.740 pounds. The statue has een washed with an seid which causes a slight exidation thus producing a rich and uniform bronze tint, which will change. It was modelled in plaster by Crawford, the lamented eminent sculptor, for which model the price of three thousand dollars was paid, and was cast at the foundry of Clark Mills, Esq., at Bladensburg. The entire cost of this great work of art is from twenty five to thirty

housand dotlars. During the last two weeks three sections of the statuave been elevated to the tholus of the dome; the fourth one, embracing the chest of the figure, was placed in posi ion on Tuesday, so that little remained to be done or Wednesday than setting the head on the statue. neight of the iron work above the basement floor of the

Capitel, including the crowning statue, is 987 feet.
Of the old dome, which was built of wood, the oute and inner shells were not concentric, and while the inner was, in proportions, a copy of that of the Pantheon Agripps at Rome, though much inferior in size, the outer was higher in proportion than that of the Pautheon. Its inflammable nature, and its narrow eacape at the time the library was burned in 1851, called the attention of Congress to it, and it was finally resolved to replace it by

dome of iron, entirely fire proof. The new dome in its proportions resembles the modern rather than the antique structures of this character. In stead of the low and flat outlines of the Pantheon of Rom and the St Sophia of Constantinople, the design is a light structure, decorated with columns and pilasters, rich cornices and entablatures springing up towards the sky, and supporting, at a beight of nearly three hundred feet above the ground of the eastern square and three hundred and seventy-two feet above the western gate, the colossal statue o

which we have spoken. The interior diameter of the dome is ninety-six feet. The galleries afford a fine view of the interior and of the exterior, the view stretching many miles down the Poto-mac. The structure is double, and between the exterior and the interior shells a staircase, winding spirally around

the whole, will afford access to the very summit. The general outline of this structure resembles that of he dome of St. Peter's, of Rome; St. Paut's, of London; and St Genevieve and of the Invalides, of Paris; and of the last great work of the kind erected in modern times, that of the Russian National Church, the Cathedral of St. Isanc's, at St. Petersburgh, which is also partly built of iron. The exterior diameter of the perisbytian circular colonnade is 124 feet 9 inches. The columns of the perityle are 37 feet in height and weigh 12 000 pounds each Let us indulge the hope that our posterity to the end o time may look upon it with the same admiration which we to-day, and an unbroken Union three years since would have viewed this glorious symbol of patriotism and achieve-

### THE VENANGO OIL FLEET.

But few persons not intimately connected with the pe roleum business can form an adequate idea of the extent of the carrying trade which this product involves. On Monday last, says the editor of the Oil City Register, we took a trip along our wharves, and up the creek a short distance, in order to ascertain the number of oil boats now on hand. As near as we could ascertain, there are 525 boats, consisting of flats, French creekers, and barges, now engaged, or waiting to be employed, in this immediate The value of these boats will range from \$600 vicinity. each to \$125. The number of steam towboots engaged in this husiness last year was fourteen, valued at from \$10,000 to \$15,000 each, but we learn that several more will be added this season. Besides these there are seven passenger steamers, we understand, to be placed on this oute the present season. The value of these boats is about \$20,000 each. Thus we have some 525 oil boats, probably not less than

eighteen steam tow boats, and seven passenger steamers in the oil trade. Tris petroleum navy employs directly and indirectly the services of between 3,000 and 4,000 men, and the business is increasing fully one third larger every year. What other locality can beat this in the same

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTION IN NEW YORK. Tuesday last was the regular period for the election of

Mayor for the city of New York. There were three candidates in the field. C. Godfrey Gunter, ind-pendent Democrat; Francis J. A. Boole, regular Democrat; and Orison Blunt, Union Republica . Mr Gunter was elected, the vote being as follows: For Gunter 29,035, Boole 22 581, and Blunt 19,460. The Aldermen elected are all

### LATE EVENTS AT MATAMOROS.

From the New Orleans True Delta of November 21st. Our Mex can friends have a curious way of doing things up politically. A recent extraordinary affair which occurred at Ma'amoros, and which we find in our private correspondence from that place, is an illustration. The names of Cobos and Cortinas are not unknown to people at all familiar with the lawless proceedings which the Mexican side of the Valley of the Rio Grande has been compelled to endure. They were both petty chieftains, turbulent, unprincipled, revengeful, and sanguinary, and long identified with scenes of turbulence and domestic strife. The recent affair between them is thus communivisions and forage. Reinforcements are on their way to cated :

"José Maria Cebos has been residing on the American side, an exile from Mexico on account of his French pro-clivities. He has been a man of mark in the past troubles of his country. He crossed the liver to Matamoros, which he had hing meditated, at 10 P M on the 5th instant, and before morning he was in power and exercising authority as Governor, d posing Ruz Cortinas figured as the military head of the affair, and during the 6 h was very conspicuous in the arrest of the enemies of the movement. In the evening of that day, however, Cobos issued his pronunciamiento, ve ich, it is surmised, gave morial offence to Cortinas; and the threats of the former that he would enforce it, as he did in his prociamations, resulted would enforce it, as he did in his proclamations, resulted in a reactionary movement disastrous to the unfortunate dictator. About nine o'clock a guard coolly seized Cobos, their new Governor of a day, and, having marched him about two squares from the plazs, shot him. He died heroically, giving the word of command himself to the firing party. Shortly afterwards a young Frenchman, who had been for some time in prison, confined as a French app, and who had been released by Cobos and made a colonel of, was led to the same spot, where, like the Governor, he expiated the guilt of his new honor with his life. The imprisoned of the day before were then liberated, and these who had denounced the mere locked up in their stead. These events, so rapid and melo-dramatic, astonished the many Amer cans who were in Matamoroa. They wondered what would come next, as the soldiers were very active, but, nothing occurring, quiet soon was re-e-table het. Business, of course, is completely broken up; many are preparing to leave for Havana, and a French force is mementarily looked for to et ter upon possession of the place, and to commence their permanent occupation of the Valley of the Rio Grande."

## REJECTION OF A CONVENTION IN MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY, (Mo.) DEC. 2.-In the Senate today a bill providing for calling a new State Convention was tabled by a tie vote, the President voting in the affirmative. In the House, Mr. Wagner off-red a series of resolutions looking to pacification to this effect:

The abolition of slavery; that the rebels lay down or deliver up their arms, and surrender the forts and arsensis; that the people of the South give up their leaders; that all persons who have wilfully taken up arms against the Government shall be incapacitated from holding Federal effice; that all other people South be restored to their ancient rights; and that our Senators and Representatives e instructed to vote for an amendment to the Constitution forever prohibiting slavery in the United States.

#### THE SUSPENSION OF EXCHANGES. The Springfield (Mass.) Republican does not assent to

the logic of Mr. Solicitor Whiting defending the suspention of all exchanges of prisoners until the Confederates e up their negro prisoners. It says that the only point he makes is, that if we consent to exchange all other prisoners and defer for the present the question as to negroes the rebels "would not only be relieved of the burden of maintaining our troops, but they would get back their own men, retaining their power over the very persons whom we are solemnly bound to rescue, and upon whom they could then, without fear of retaliation, carry into execution the inhuman cruelties they have so basely threatened." With this the Republican takes issue, and maintains that "if we retain rebel officers and men in equal numpers to the officers and men of our negro regiments now n their hands, we shall have the power of retaliation, and can exercise it whenever we think best. It is not worth while to try to muddle so plain a case. The retention of negro troops by the rebels is not a good reason for refusing to exchange the thousands of others not involved in that question, and no special pleading can make it appear so."

### LOCAL MATTERS.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY -In addition to the annual neetings of Congress, of the Supreme Court, of the Colonization Society, and of the National Agricultural Society, which are required by law t be held in this metropolis, we are to have this winter the annual session of the "Natio cademy of Sciences." This was incorporated in March last, by an set of Congress, which named the fifty members, the number of which is not to be exceeded. By the act of incorporation, "the academy shall, whenever called upon by any Department of the Government, investigate, examine, experiment and report upon any subject of science or art, the actual expense to be paid, but the academy shall receive no compensation whatever for any services to the Government of the United States." Among everal subjects referred to the academy under this law is the apparatus and illuminating material of lightheuses, upon which Professor HENRY, of the Smithsonian Instiution, will read a paper.

THE WATER SUPPLY .- Up to this time water brought this city by what is known as the Potomac aqueduct, a magnificent work undertaken by Congress, has come sitegether from the Cabin John Branch, an intermediate stream, where a handsome viaduct and reservoir were built. The work on the squeduct has now been so far accomplished, however, as to admit of the introduction of the water from the Potomac, and the Secretary of the Interior has directed the engineer to turn it on at the Great Falls, some miles west of Georgetown, on Saturday next. At the suggestion of the Mayor, the City Councils have resolved to attend in a body at the Falls on that occasion, and have appointed a joint committee of three members to act in conjunction with the Mayor in carrying out the

#### COMMUNICATED. Messrs. EDITORS: A short time ago I paid a visit to

necessary arrangements.

the " Armory Square Hospital," where I found every thing regarding its inmates neat, clean, in excellent order and condition, which reflects great credit upon its immediate director, Surg-on D. W. Bliss, U. S. V., a gentleman well calculated to fil the position. Attached to this home of the affl cted is that of the "Electro-Medicated Bath Department," which is under the exclusive care and direction of the eminent and skillful physician, L. ALCAN, M. D., in which is administered respectively the 'sulphur vapor baths" and "electricity," for the radical cure of cutanic and other diseases which the medical profession generally fail to perfect. I understand the duties of this department to be various, and at times quite arduous, so much so as to exhaust both the physician as well as his careful attendant. Moreover, I learn, with great regret, that the salary of this faithful servant of the Government is far, very far indeed, below that of the other physicians of the same hospital. And why is it so? Why should the Government (if I may say so) stint a man who is, in each and every particular, a regular, educated, and so ysician? The management of the particular detific physician? votes his time being an extra addition to his already imnense store of medical knowledge and skill, therefore he is deserving of at least the same pay as that of other sur-geons, if not more, because he does not fail to cure, radically cure, many diseases which surgeons in charge of va-rious hospitals in this vicinity are compelled to give up, and for which he is rewarded with but a small pittance. Also, his kind attendant should have better pay, as his duties are likewise important. Could not the Government, u addition to the increase of his salary, aff rd the docto better arranged department-one in which he would have more room, and indeed one which would be more respectable, baving a room set spart, independent of his private apartment, for, a reception room? I think be is deserving of both an increased remuneration as well as

N. w. Messrs. Ecitors, permit me to ask your kind in-N. w. Messrs. Ection, permanded as your and in-dulgence for so long an article. It is prompted by no other sentiments but those of earnest devotion to the cause of justice and merit. Trusting you will give it space in your valuable journal, and that its objects may be attained by those whom it may concern, I remain yours,

### MORE CONTRACTORS IN TROUBLE.

D. W. Whitney and W. H. White, defaulting Govern ment contractors, reached this city, from the United States Deputy Marshal at New York, on Saturday moreing, and were committed to the Old Capitol prison. They will be tried by court-martial.